WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Target for export during 2008-09

†242. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set target for export for the financial year 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export target includes the value of export from the Special Economic Zones;

(d) if so, the target set for such export;

(e) the total amount of export made from the Special Economic Zones and Non- Special Economic Zones during the April-December period; and

(f) the difference between the actual amount of export and the targeted amount of export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) While announcing the Annual Supplement to Foreign Trade Policy on 11th April, 2008, the Government fixed an export target of US$ 200 billion for merchandise exports for the year 2008-09, including export from the Special Economic Zones (SEZ). On account of subsequent global financial crisis and economic slowdown of developed economies, the target of US$ 200 billion is unlikely to be achieved. Merchandise exports from SEZ and non-SEZ areas during April to December 08 was US$ 130.91 billion, compared to US$ 113.48 billion during the corresponding period of previous year.

Loss of jobs due to decrease in export

†243. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been huge decrease in export from India due to economic recession in America and European countries;

(b) if so, the assessment regarding decrease in export between April and December during the financial year 2008-09;

(c) whether there is apprehension of increase in unemployment in the country due to decrease in export; and

(d) if so, the number of persons who have lost their jobs?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Exports from India during April-December '08 was US$ 130.91 billion in comparison to US$ 113.48 billion in the corresponding period last year, registering a growth of 15.4%. Global slowdown, in particular, in the United States and European countries have impacted on India's exports which witnessed decline in growth since October '08 onwards.

(c) and (d) A sample survey conducted by the Department of Commerce for 402 exporting units spread over 17 different sectors, primarily employment oriented, revealed job loss (both direct and indirect) to the tune of 1,09,513 persons during the period August '08 to Mid January '09.

Ban on import of toys from China

244. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently imposed a ban on the import of toys from China;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification therefor;

(c) whether the toys manufactured in China and exported to many countries including India are toxic;

(d) if so, whether the toys from China flourishing the various markets in the country would also be banned for sale; and

(e) if not, how Government is going to protect children from such toys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The prohibition on import of toys from China has been imposed in response to concerns of health and safety faced by users of Chinese toys. The prohibition is an interim measure during which the Government intends to examine the issue in detail, for Notification of mandatory standards on toys will have a positive impact on the society in terms of availability of safe toys for children in India.

Impact of global recession on Indian industries

†245. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to global recession symptoms of sickness are being seen in several Indian industries;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.